

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Nanoparticles containing one or more noble metals alone or in combination with one or more base metals, said nanoparticles being embedded in an aqueous solution of a temporary stabilizer which is a polysaccharide capable of being removed effectively by decomposition, wherein the aqueous solution has a total chlorine concentration of less than 100 ppm.
2. (previously presented) Nanoparticles according to claim 1, wherein the temporary stabilizer can be removed by pyrolysis at temperatures up to 250 °C.
3. (original) Nanoparticles according to claim 1, wherein the temporary stabilizer can be removed by breaking glycosidic bonds of said polysaccharide in the presence of acids or alkalis.
4. (original) Nanoparticles according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution has a pH-value in the range of from 5 to 8.
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) Nanoparticles according to claim 1 containing at least one noble metal selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium, osmium, gold and silver and, if one or more noble metals are present in combination with one or more base metals, at least one base metal selected from the group consisting of iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, titanium, vanadium, chromium, manganese, molybdenum, tungsten and rhenium.

7. (original) Nanoparticles according to claim 6, having a particle size from 0.1 nm to 100 nm.

8. (original) Nanoparticles according to claim 7, wherein the polysaccharide is gum arabic, xanthan gum, tragacanth or mixtures thereof.

9. (original) Nanoparticles according to claim 8, wherein the concentration of particles in the aqueous solution is from 0.01 to 500 grams per liter.

10. (original) Nanoparticles according to claim 9, wherein the ratio by weight of nanoparticles to stabilizer is from 10:1 to 1:10.

11 – 23 (canceled).

24. (new) A method of coating an ionomer membrane which comprises using the nanoparticles of claim 1.

25. (new) A method of coating a gas diffusion layer which comprises using the nanoparticles of claim 1.

26. (new) A method of precatalyzing an ionomer membrane which comprises using the nanoparticles of claim 1.

27. (new) A method of producing a supported electrocatalyst which comprises using the nanoparticles of claim 1.

28. (new) A method of preparing a catalyst ink which comprises using the nanoparticles of claim 1.